

**Agency Plan for 6.287 Percent GF-S Allotment Reduction**  
**September 29, 2010**

**Agency Name:** Department of Early Learning

**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:** Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce contracts with Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) providers

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction):** \$923,246

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** ECEAP is a comprehensive preschool program that provides free services and support to eligible children and their families. The goal of the program is to help ensure all Washington children enter kindergarten ready to succeed. ECEAP children are already enrolled for the current school year. Contractors have established their school year budgets, hired staff and begun services. A reduction of this size is approximately 139 slots, or 139 children for whom we would have to terminate services.

A couple of options are being evaluated, such as cutting entire classes, since the contractors costs are not reduced if we remove one child from a class of 18 or 20. This means that whole communities would lose the services.

The other reduction option would be to end the school year earlier, but serve all of the children. This would cause a larger gap between the end of ECEAP and the beginning of kindergarten, which could lead to decreased kindergarten readiness skills, cause some loss of staff as they sought other jobs during the year, and require a change to the ECEAP contracts and performance standards regarding the minimum classroom hours per year. The ECEAP Directors would be involved in evaluating options and identifying a solution that would least impact children. The ECEAP reduction will also result in parents having to replace the hours their children would have been in an ECEAP setting, with a child care setting.

**Implementation Date:** March 15, 2011

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:** Child Care Resource and Referral

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce the contract with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction):** \$13,391

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** Since the contract with CCR&R has been finalized, DEL will have to amend the contract to reduce funding for one of the five core elements outlined in the contract (quality improvement, core services, community engagement, data, and/or Washington Scholarships).

**Implementation Date:** December 1, 2010

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:** Culturally Relevant Services (FFN)

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce Parent Supports programs.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction):** \$12,574

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** This budget supports DEL's implementation of the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) and Family, Friend and Neighbors (FFN) services through Play and Learn Groups. The PAG serves as a sounding board for decisions, ideas and questions that shape the future of DEL. Parental involvement in decision-making is the key to having policies and programs that support families' strengths and needs, and is outlined as a requirement for the department in RCW 43.215.020. Play and Learn Groups are a strategy implemented throughout Washington to engage families and their children in opportunities to play together, where parents can develop skills for supporting their children's development through everyday play experiences. DEL is continuing to determine specific reductions to these activities, with the intention of minimizing cuts in direct services to families and children.

**Implementation Date:** November 1, 2010

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:** Career and Wage

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce 50 Career and Wage Ladder (CWL) contracts.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction):** \$47,153

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** The Washington State Child Care Career and Wage Ladder (CWL), as outlined in RCW 43.215.505, provides supplemental funding for participating licensed child care centers that base staff wages on education, experience, and training. Over the past 10 years, the CWL program has given over \$12 million to early learning professionals for the purpose of improving educational levels and decreasing turnover.

This reduction will impact DEL's ability to continue the Career and Wage Ladder contracts in several contract sites. It is most efficient to implement the Career and Wage Ladder using one contract for each contractor per fiscal year. The uncertainty of funding forces DEL to change the 50 contracts multiple times. This forces DEL to use more time to change each contract and communicate these changes to uneasy contractors.

The current providers have received these wage supplements for approximately eight years. Many have come to rely on these funds to hire and retain staff who may have higher levels of education than the typical entry level child care provider. Providers will have to decide whether they can afford to pay the additional wage supplement, if state funding is reduced.

**Implementation Date:** Effective January 1, 2011. Federal ARRA dollars are being used to fund CWL until that point.

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:** Kindergarten Assessment

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce the funding appropriated to implement a kindergarten readiness assessment pilot.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction):** \$3,144

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) is a kindergarten readiness assessment process being piloted in school year 2010-2011. The DEL and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with Thrive by Five Washington, are working to design and implement the WaKIDS pilot. This reduction will reduce the administrative dollars available for this work.

**Implementation Date:** November 1, 2010

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:** Home Visitation

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce contract with the non-profit organization, Thrive by Five Washington.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction):** \$18,861

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** Home visiting services increase protective factors against abuse and neglect, and are critical to promoting safe and nurturing home environments for many at-risk infants and young children. Some clients from the following affected populations will not be served: Low income, limited parental education, low literacy levels, families with limited access to center-based services, geographic isolation, cultural and language barriers, homelessness, single parent, teen parent. Reductions in this budget would reduce or eliminate direct home visiting services to children being served in Thrive By Five Washington's demonstration communities in White Center and Yakima.

**Implementation Date:** November 1, 2010

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:** Home Visitation Services Account

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce contract with the non-profit organization, Thrive by Five Washington.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction):** \$12,574

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** ESSB 6444 mandates DEL to contract with the non-governmental private-public partnership designated in RCW 43.215.070 to administer programs funded through the home visiting services account.

According to ESSB 6444, these funds are critical to securing match funds from non-state public or private sources, to fund home visitation services to families and children. Further Home Visitation at-risk client impacts will result from the loss of these match-producing funds. Also, the number of clients who will get visits will be reduced.

**Implementation Date:** November 1, 2010

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:**                    **Administration of Seasonal Child Care Contracts**

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce contracts with organizations that administer the eligibility determination for clients applying for seasonal child care subsidies.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction): \$254,058**

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** This reduction focuses upon GF-S dollars that are used exclusively for administrative/program costs and fee for service eligibility determinations. Client impact is anticipated to be minimal, as clients will be directed to the DSHS call center for eligibility determination.

**Implementation Date:** Approximately February/March 2011, contracts will end as administrative/fee for service funds are depleted.

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**Name of Program or Service Being Reduced:**                    **Early Learning Basic Education (6759)**

**Description of Reduction:** Reduce the funding appropriated to DEL to complete the study required in the SB 6759. DEL has submitted two exemption requests to hire a position as outlined in SB 6759's fiscal note and both requests were denied.

**Dollar Amount (GF-S reduction): \$50,000**

**Description of Client Impact and/or Effect on Service Outcomes:** SB 6759 required a study be completed to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning. A working group has been convened by OSPI and DEL, and monitored and overseen by the QEC. The bill requires a progress report due to ELAC and the QEC by July 1, 2011, and a final report and plan due November 1, 2011. The plan must examine the opportunities and barriers of at least two options: a program of early learning under the program of basic education and a program of early learning as an entitlement, either statutorily or constitutionally protected.

Without the ability to fill a position to do this work, the study will not be as robust as planned and will not include the fiscal and/or research analyses outlined in the bill. All work that will be done by DEL will be completed within existing resources.

**Implementation Date: Immediately**

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